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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/756,936	01/09/2001	Brian Branscomb	102689-67	6759

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EXAMINER

JAMAL, ALEXANDER

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2643	

DATE MAILED: 06/22/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/756,936

Applicant(s)

BRANSCOMB ET AL.

Examiner

Alexander Jamal

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— The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address —

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 January 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 6.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

3. **Claim 6** rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. The claim refers to a single on/off switch that is in series with each circuit breaker. The On/Off Switch is coupled to (spec pages 280-282) logic circuitry and is not directly in series with each circuit breaker.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

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4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. **Claims 1-5,7-28** rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thornton (5324989), and further in view of Saunders et al. (6078112).

As per **claim 1**, Thornton discloses a power distribution system comprising a power distribution unit (ABSTRACT). The unit inherently comprises connectors to the power feeds of each of the devices it feeds for the purpose of connecting to said devices. However Thornton does not specify that the power distribution unit provides unregulated DC power, or that the unit is removably mounted in a chassis.

Although it is not specified that the unit supplies unregulated power, however, the distribution system is used to provide power to many different loads requiring different voltages (THORNTON: items 8-16 in Fig. 1). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of this application to provide unregulated power and let the individual loads regulate whatever voltage is necessary for the purpose of saving the cost of providing regulation circuitry in the power distribution unit.

Saunders teaches a multi purpose bay (chassis) that may be used with a battery (power distribution system) such that the battery is removably mounted in the chassis (Col 1 line 19 to Col 2 line 12, Fig. 2). He further teaches that providing the chassis interface allows hot-swappable units or multiple units to be interfaced with the computer system. If multiple batteries (power distribution units) are inserted, the computer system

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may run for longer periods of time. The units may also be hot-swappable. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of this application to provide a hot-swappable chassis for multiple units for the purpose of providing a redundant system supply in order to minimize system downtime (in the event that one of the units fails).

As per **claim 10**, claim rejected for same reasons as rejection of claim 1.

Additionally, the unit comprises a plurality of filter circuits (per channel) (THORNTON: Fig. 7 lines 3-9) that are coupled to the inherent connectors. The unit further comprises a plurality of switches connected to the filter circuits (Col 2 lines 20-40). The unit chassis inherently comprises appropriate conductors (such as bus bars) interfaced with each switch for the purpose of providing the power to the devices being fed by the power distribution unit. The unit inherently comprises the appropriate connectors (such as bus bar connectors) for the purpose of interfacing with the conductors (bus bars) in the chassis.

As per **claim 16**, claim rejected for the same reason as the rejection of claims 1 and 10.

As per **claims 18,19**, claim rejected for the same reason as the rejection of claims 1 and 10. Saunders discloses using multiple units in the chassis (Fig. 2).

As per **claim 21**, claim rejected for the same reason as the rejection of claims 1 and 10. Additionally, Thornton discloses that the unit comprises a plurality of circuit

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breakers (Col 3 lines 5-20) that are coupled to each one of the inherent connectors.

Thornton further discloses an on/off switch (Col 4 lines 15-65).

As per **claim 25**, claim rejected for the same reason as the rejections of claims 1, 10, 18, and 21. Each additional unit installed in the chassis would comprise the associated connectors, circuit breakers, and on/off switch.

As per **claims 2-5, 8, 9, 11-15, 17, 20, 22-24, 26-28**, claims rejected for the same reasons as rejections of independent claims 1, 16, 18, 19, 21, 25.

As per **claim 7**, Thornton in view of Saunders discloses applicant's claims 1-5, but they do not disclose that the circuit breakers comprise magnetic/hydraulic circuit breaker devices.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of this application that a magnetic/hydraulic switch (traditional mechanical switching relay) could be used instead of switch 603 (Fig. 7) as a matter of design choice for the reason that the switch is able to turn on/off (as the FET) in response to a signal.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alexander Jamal whose telephone number is 703-305-3433. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8AM-5PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Curtis A Kuntz can be reached on 703-305-4708. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9306 for regular communications and 703-872-9315 for After Final communications.

AJ
June 7, 2004


CURTIS KUNTZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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